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General

Guyana, located on the NE coast of Latin America, is fronted by the Atlantic Ocean. It is bounded on the E by Suriname, on the W by Venezuela, and on the S and W by Brazil.

The country can be divided roughly into three regions, as follows:

1. A low coastal region, about 250 miles long, which varies in width up to 30 miles and constitutes the agricultural area.
2. An intermediate area, about 100 miles wide, which is composed of slightly higher undulating land and which provides the chief mineral and forest resources
3. A hinterland composed of several mountain ranges and extensive savannahs

Approximately 87 per cent of the land area is covered with forests.

The climate is tropical, with rainy seasons from April to July and November to January. The humidity is high all year, but temperatures are moderated by sea breezes.

Buoyage System

The IALA Buoyage System (Region B) is in effect. See Chart No. 1 for further IALA Buoyage System information.

Currency

The official unit of currency is the Guyana dollar, consisting of 100 cents.

Government



Flag of Guyana

Guyana gained independence from the United Kingdom in 1966 and became a republic in 1970.

A new constitution in 1980 provided for an Executive Presidency and a unicameral 65-member National Assembly, with 53 being elected for 5-year terms and 12 being appointed by the regional authorities. The Prime Minister, appointed by the President, is the head of the government.

The legal system is based on English common law with certain admixtures of Roman-Dutch law.

The capital is Georgetown.

Holidays

The following holidays are observed:

New Year's Day	January 1
Republic Day	February 23
Phagwah	March 29
Good Friday	Varies
Easter Monday	Varies
Labor Day	May 1
Independence Day	May 26

Caribbean Day	July 1
Freedom Day	August 1
Deepavali	November 4
Christmas Day	December 25
Boxing Day	December 26

Yaou-Mun-Nabi and Eid-UI-Ahza are observed Islamic holidays, the dates of which vary from year to year and are subject to the appearance of the moon.

Industries

The major industries include bauxite mining, alumina production, livestock raising, timber, edible oil processing, and fishing.

Gold, diamonds, manganese, copper, tungsten, nickel, quartz, iron ore, and molybdenum are also mined. Other industries include tourism and the production of textiles and pharmaceuticals. The chief crops are sugar, rice, coffee, cocoa, copra, tobacco, coconut, and several tropical fruits.

Languages

The official language is English. Several Amerindian dialects are also spoken.

Time Zone

The Time Zone description is QUEBEC (+4). Daylight Savings Time is not observed.

World Time Zone Chart

<http://www.odci.gov/cia/publications/factbook/ref/pdf/802801.pdf>

U.S. Embassy

The U.S. Embassy is situated at 99-100 Young and Duke Streets, Kingston, Georgetown.

The mailing addresses are, as follows:

1. International mail—
P.O. Box 10507
Georgetown
2. Diplomatic pouch—
3170 Georgetown Place
Washington DC 20521-3170